

**Town of Webster
Office of Select Board
945 Battle Street
Webster, NH 03303
Final Minutes – September 21, 2015
Approved September 28, 2015**

Staff and Vendors Present: Bruce Johnson, Roger Becker, Michael Borek, Emmett Bean, Pete Swisloski, Erin Darrow and Leslie Palmer

Public Present: Tara Gunnigle, Jon Pearson, John Clark, Jere Buckley, Sue Roman, Sue Rauth, Bob Gould, Thomas Smith, Sue Roberts, Mary Jo MacGowen, and Gary French and.

Chairman Johnson opened the meeting at 5:30 PM.

The Select Board met with Pete Swislosky from Granite Roots Construction to perform a final inspection of the Town Hall Vinyl Siding Project. Discussed was the need for a dehumidifier as moisture has been a problem in the past as well as the need to power wash the vinyl siding for cosmetic purposes. Granite Roots has agreed to replace one corner board; the project is complete otherwise. The Select Board approved final payment.

Board Action: Chairman Johnson moved to request that the Trustees of the Trust Funds issue a check in the amount of \$21,577.91 payable to Granite Roots Construction from the Town Hall Capital Reserve Fund, Account #78019345, for the balance due on the Town Hall Vinyl Siding Contract. Selectman Becker seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion was approved.

The Select Board continued the meeting in the conference room. Administrative Assistant Leslie Palmer asked that the Board amend two motions approving the purchase of forestry hose from Jordan Lumber made on July 6th. The cost of the hoses was slightly less than anticipated because shipping costs were slightly less.

Board Action: Chairman Johnson moved to request that the Trustees of Trust Funds issue a check in the amount of \$1,078.00 to Jordan Lumber to pay for forestry hose from the Forest Fire Expendable Trust Fund, Account #780187878. Selectman Borek seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion was approved.

Board Action: Chairman Johnson moved to request that the Trustees of Trust Funds issue a check in the amount of \$1,085.17 to Jordan Lumber to pay for safety hose from the Fire Equipment Expendable Trust Fund, Account #780193389. Selectman Borek seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion was approved.

Erin Darrow from Right Angle Engineering met with the Board to provide a status update on the White Plains Rd and Bashan Hollow Rd projects. She provided cost estimates as well as a breakdown of payments to date. Chairman Johnson emphasized the need to be able to track costs and payments throughout the duration of the projects. Ms. Darrow will draft contracts to be signed by both parties which identify exact costs. She also provided an updated plan for Bashan Hollow Rd, showing additional engineering for storm water management. The latest plan has been forwarded to Paul Gagnon at the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests for his review. To date, Mr. Gagnon has not commented to the Town on the proposed work to be completed. Ms. Darrow also reported that she was working on the Moose Plate Grant application due September 25th; she will coordinate with Administrative Assistant Palmer on preparing the application for submission.

At 6:20 PM, Chairman Johnson recessed the Select Board meeting to move to the Town Hall for the Public Hearing at 6:30 PM.

At 6:30 PM, Chairman Johnson opened the Public Hearing to receive public comment and input concerning the proposed changes to Bashan Hollow Rd at the curve by the Smith residence. Three options were to be

considered: 1. Move the road to straighten the curve, 2. Cut back the existing bank and trees to improve the line of sight or 3. Make no changes to the road. Erin Darrow of Right Angle Engineering presented her recommendation to the public in attendance which is option 2. She showed the engineering plan which identified the right of way as determined by a licensed surveyor. She explained that because of the severe safety issue at the curve in the road, she recommended that the road be widened within the right of way to keep the width of the road consistent. The road narrows to 12-14ft at the curve, but the road is 16ft wide on either side of the curve; 16ft of width is needed to legally insure that vehicles can pass safely. Widening the road and cutting back the embankment and trees at the curve within right of way will improve the line of sight, keep costs down and also keep the esthetic quality of the scenic road. She also recommended storm water treatment within the right of way on one side of the road which will help improve water quality. She further explained that staying within the right of way is important because the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) holds a conservation easement on the property next to the road and performing work in an easement would result in "condemnation." Condemnation is the process by which land is taken out of an easement for a purpose not allowed by the easement. It takes several hearings and a lot more money to pursue condemnation. However, it will be necessary for the Society to review the proposal and agree with the right of way determination and confirm that condemnation is not an issue before work can begin. Paul Gagnon at SPNHF has received the plans but has not weighed in yet. Ms. Darrow answered questions from residents and several recounted their own safety issues on the road. Road Agent Emmett Bean spoke to the danger he faces when plowing the road, noting that this sharp corner is the most dangerous corner in Webster. Some spoke in favor of doing nothing; citing other areas in Town that are bad also and that the proposed road work will not make much of a difference. Selectman Becker also spoke in favor of doing nothing and using the \$15,000 to address other areas that are bad too. Others spoke in favor of the proposal, believing that it struck a compromise between safety and scenic quality with the added advantage of storm water management to protect wetlands. Following further discussion, the Select Board closed the Hearing to public comment. Chairman Johnson read two emails from residents who support the proposed option. He remarked that although he leans on the side of safety, he hadn't made a decision on which option to choose prior to the meeting. However, it was Road Agent Bean's comments regarding safety made tonight that encouraged him to choose option 2 as proposed, contingent upon SPNHF approval. Selectman Borek stated that he also supports option 2, as it allows for the road to remain scenic while improving safety and reducing the chance for condemnation of the easement. Selectman Becker stated that although he spoke in favor of doing nothing to the road, he understands people's safety concerns and will abstain from voting.

Board Action: Chairman Johnson moved to approve option 2 for Bashan Hollow Rd, to cut back the existing bank and trees to improve the line of sight along with storm water management to protect wetlands, contingent upon SPNHF agreement of the right of way so as to not require condemnation of the conservation easement. Selectman Becker seconded the motion. Selectman Becker abstained from voting. The motion was approved.

If the SPNHF does not agree with the proposal, the Select Board will revisit the plan.

At 7:44 PM, Selectman Borek closed the Public Hearing and Selectman Becker seconded. All in favor, the motion was approved.

7:44 PM, Selectman Borek made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Selectman Becker and approved.

Respectfully Submitted, Leslie M. Palmer